Fairhaven

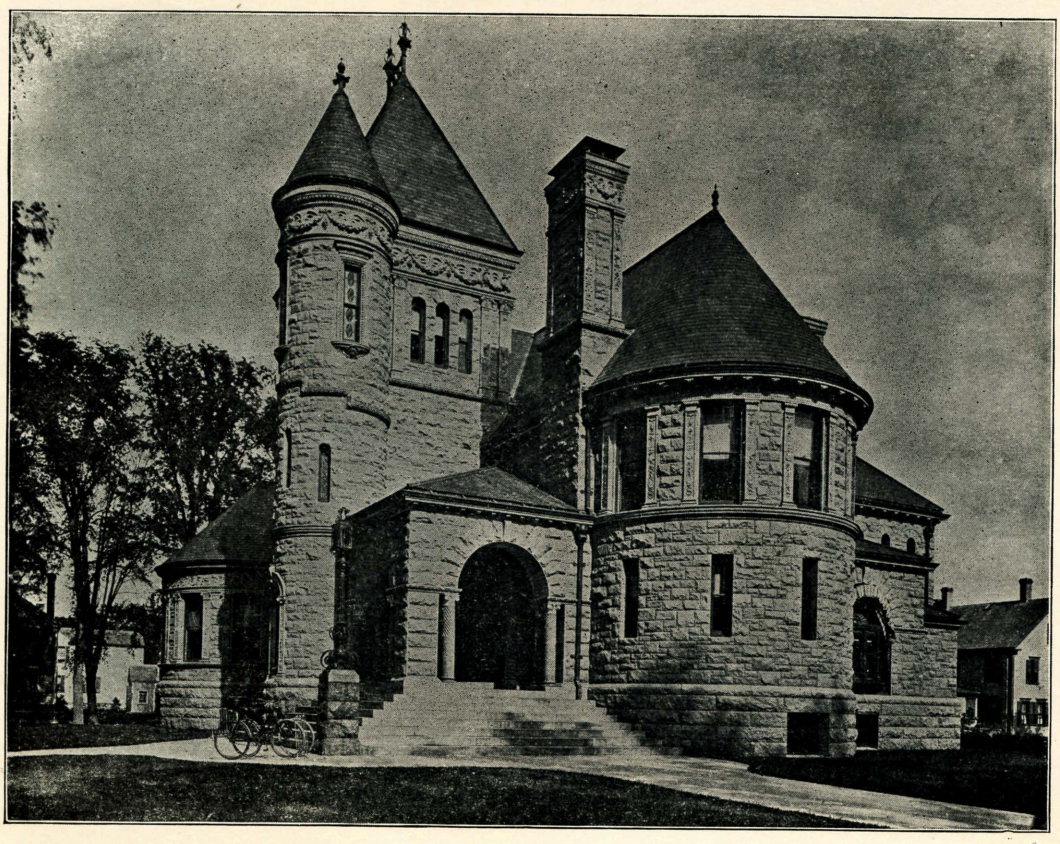
Massachusetts

Striving, Thriving
Rising Fairhaven

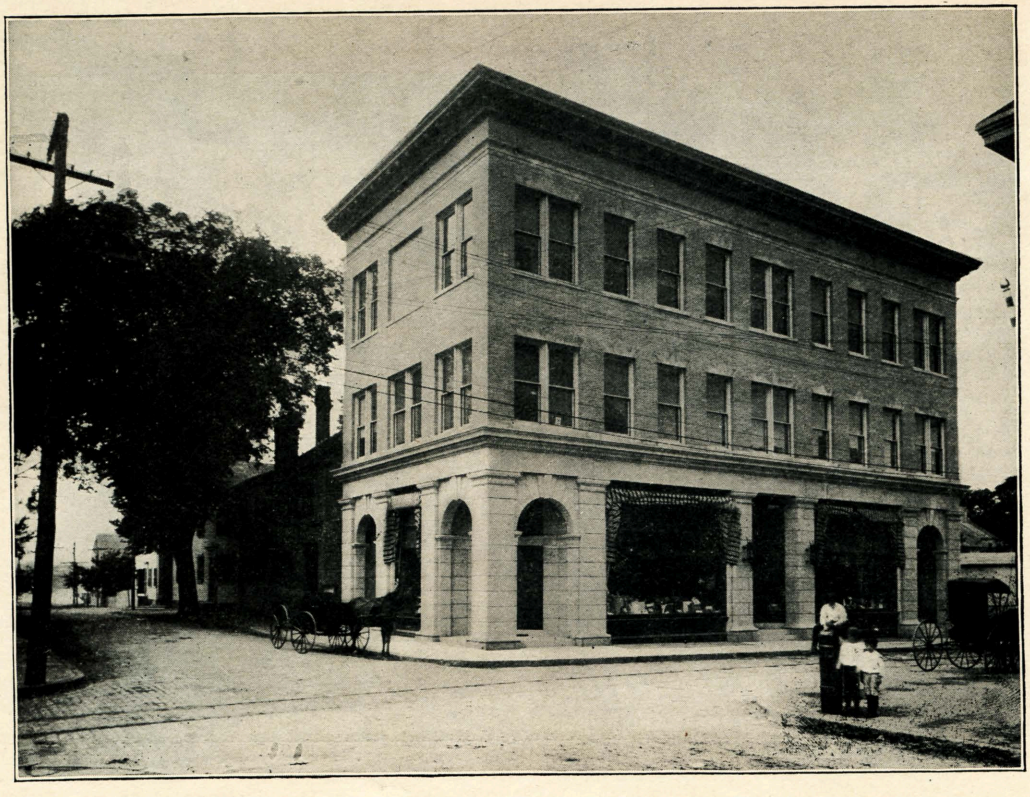
Issued by the
Fairhaven Improvement Association
1910

The
home-seeker
or manufacturer
looking for a
location
should carefully
note the many
advantages
offered by
Fairhaven,
Mass.

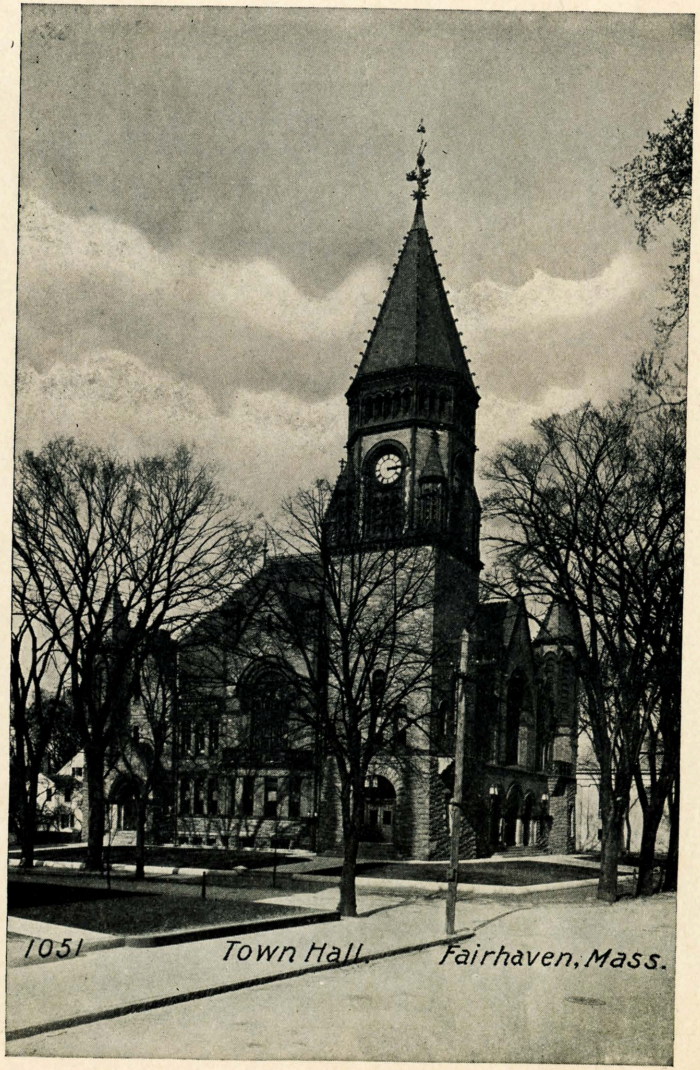
Second Edition



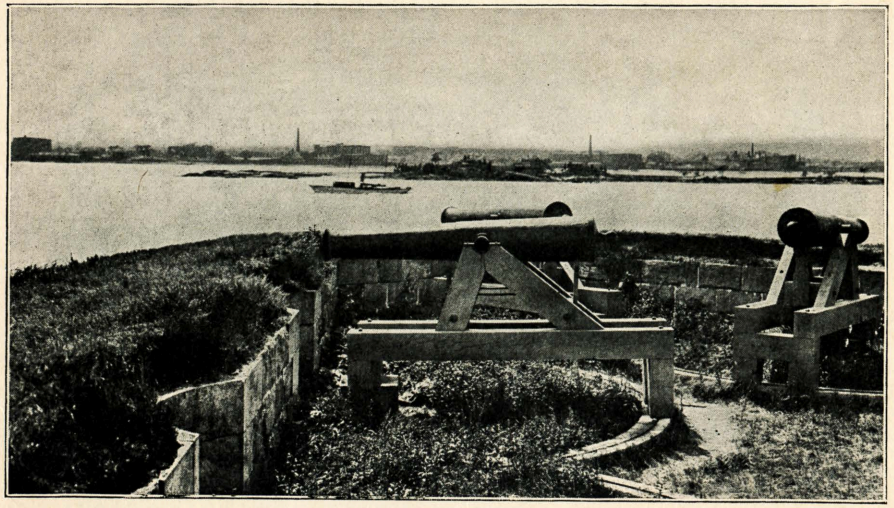
THE MILLICENT LIBRARY



GEORGE H. TABER MASONIC BUILDING

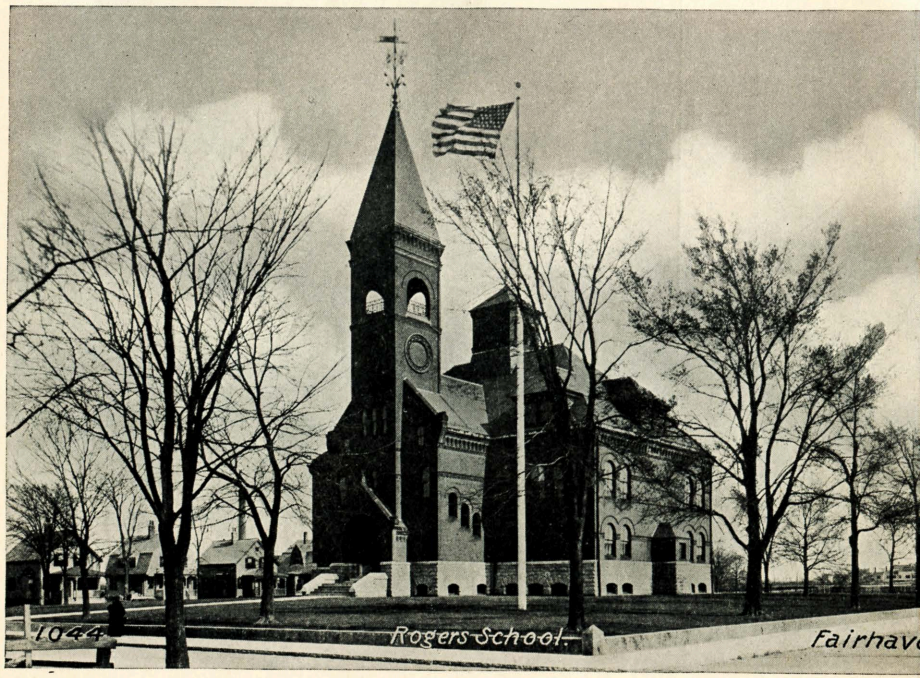


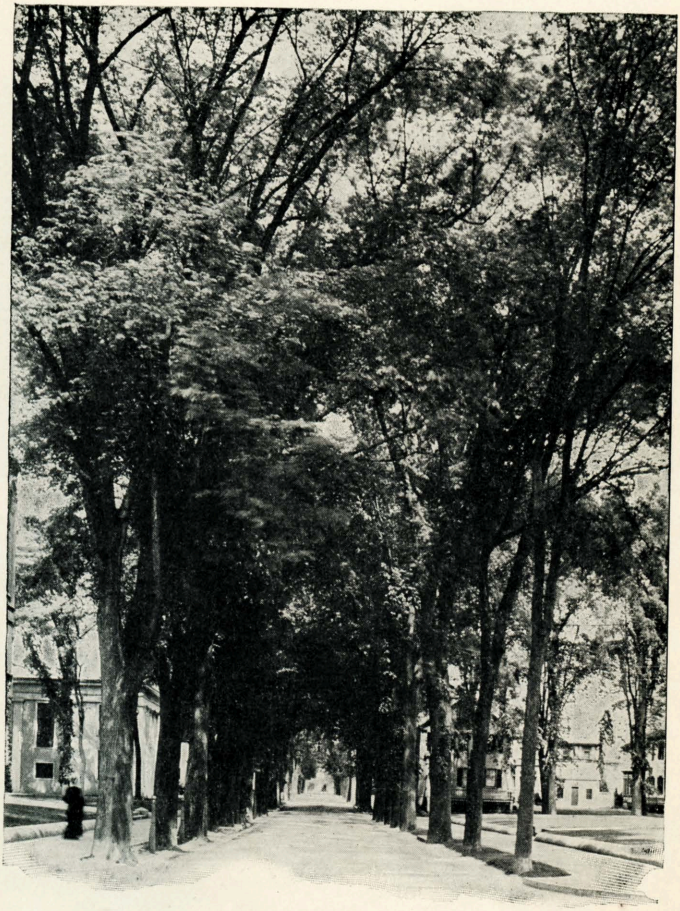
NATIONAL BANK AND SAVINGS BANK BUILDINGS



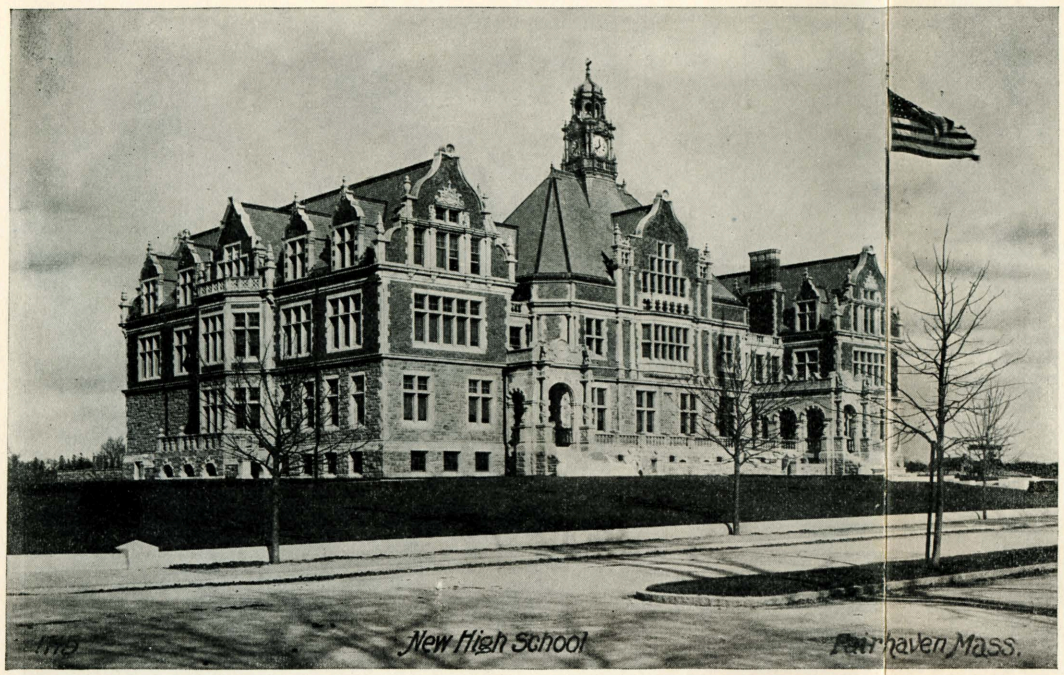
INTERIOR OF FORT PHOENIX
New Bedford and Palmer's Island in the Distance

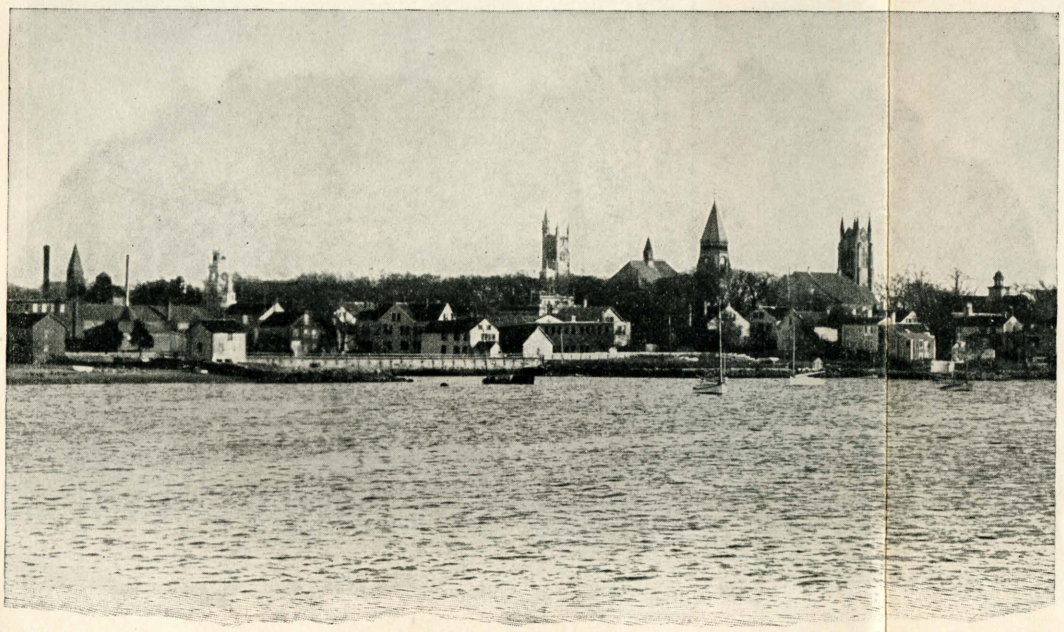
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



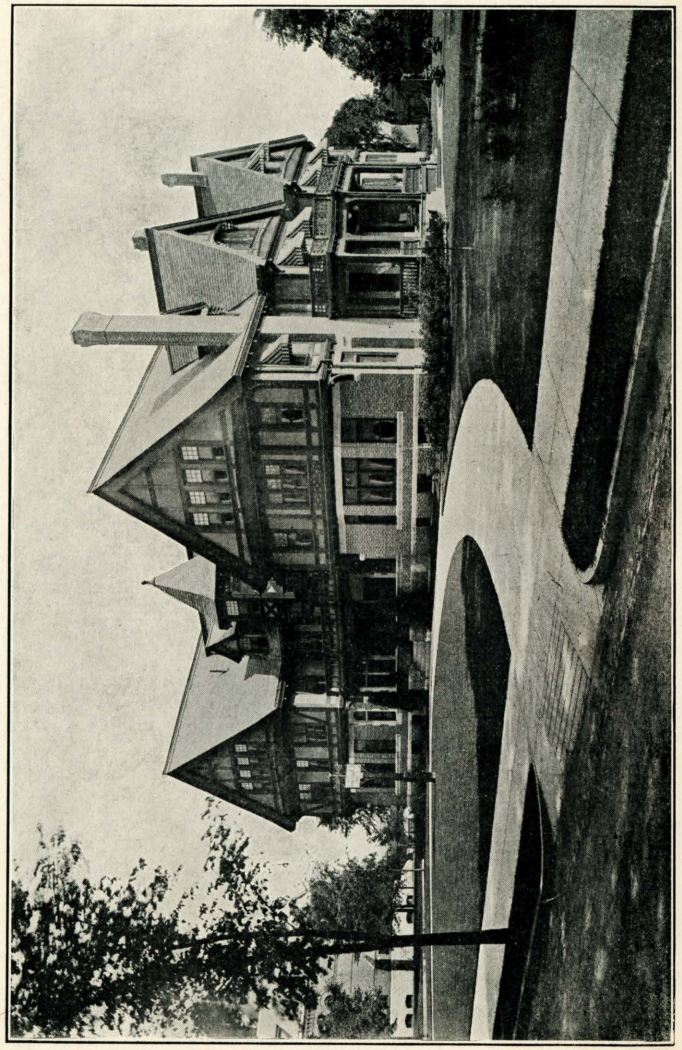


CENTRE STREET, LOOKING EAST.



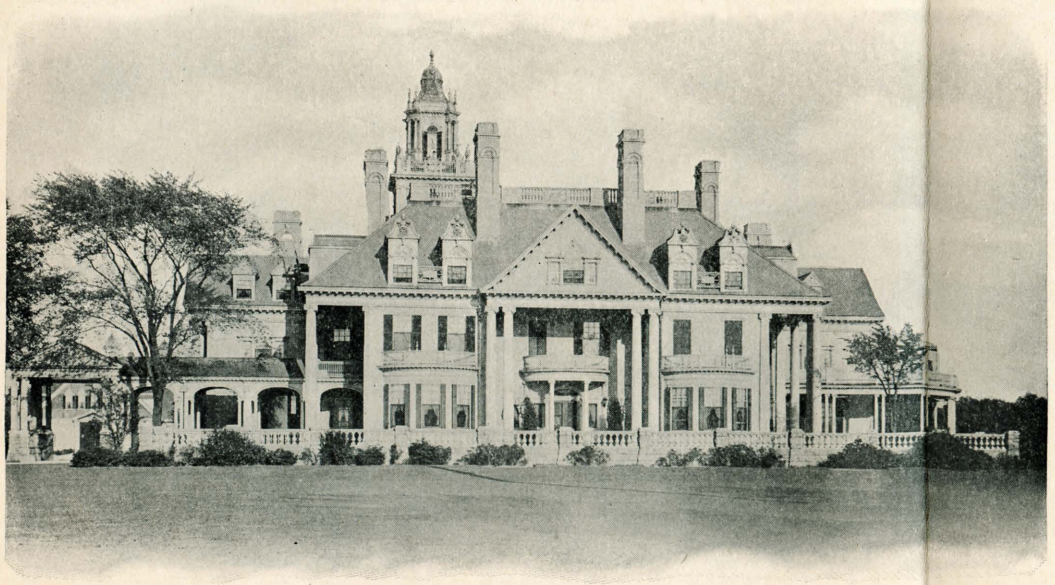


FAIRHAVEN, FROM THE BRIDGE.
Showing the Towers of Some of the Famous Buildings



TABITHA INN

GREEN STREET, FAIRHAVEN



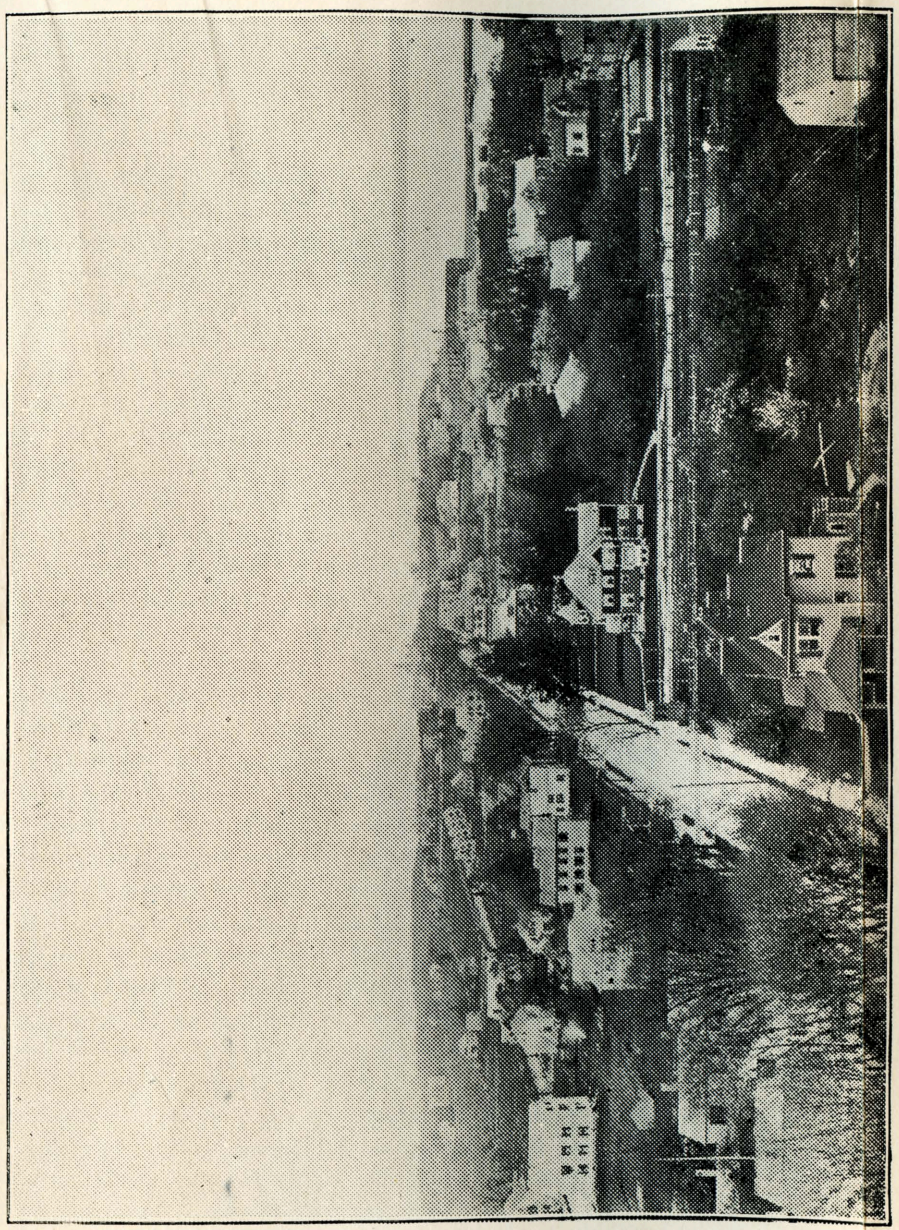
RESIDENCE OF HENRY H. ROGERS.
West Front.

FAIRHAVEN, MASS.

Fairhaven, Mass., with a population of 5,500, and an assessed valuation of $3,400,000, beautifully situated on the shore of Buzzards Bay, has all the advantages of the modern city, but without the bustle and noise of the larger communities. Essentially a town of homes, with miles of macadam streets and curbed sidewalks, shaded by beautiful old elms; with a thoroughly modern system of sewers and pure sparkling spring water from driven wells; with electric lights; with magnificent public buildings unequalled in any town of its size or larger; with a superior system of public schools, and a High School building and equipment second to none in the United States; with gas about to be introduced and with free mail delivery a matter of only a very short time, Fairhaven holds out superior inducements to the discriminating home-seeker desiring to locate among people of quiet and refinement.

The advantages that Fairhaven has to offer should appeal as strongly to the manufacturer looking for a desirable location, as any other. On the line of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, only 60 miles from Boston, with its convenient freight and passenger service; with a daily line of steamers to and from New York within a short haul; with its two lines of trolley cars and electric express; it needs but a casual glance for the up-to-date man to see at once Fairhaven's many and superior advantages. As an inducement to manufacturers to locate in Fairhaven the town has set aside six acres of land, known as Spooner's Point, abutting on the Acushnet river, and on one of the main highways to New Bedford. It is located at the end of the Coggeshall street bridge.

Aside from its many natural charms, the town is replete in history, and its many relics remind the wanderer within its bounds of the important part that Fairhaven has taken in the stirring times of the past. The town was invaded by the British troops in 1778, but their plans were thwarted by



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF SOUTH PART OF FAIRHAVEN.

a company of determined men commanded by Major Israel Fearing, and inside the parapet of the old Revolutionary Fort Phoenix there is a huge boulder bearing a bronze tablet which gives testimony to the courage and heroism of Major Fearing and his men. This and other memorials have been placed at different points by the Fairhaven Improvement Association to commemorate various happenings of historical interest.

John Cooke, a pilgrim boy of the Mayflower, and an ancestor of many now living in Fairhaven, was the town's original settler, locating here some 250 years ago. From this period to the prosperous time of the whaling industry, agriculture was the chief occupation of its people. The situation of Fairhaven, its beautiful harbor and its sinuous shores on the noble bay, whose waters abound in edible fish, has had much to do with shaping the industrial character of its inhabitants. Previous to 1796, and for many years after, vessels for the pursuit of the whale were constructed in Fairhaven. The whaling industry attained its highest importance in 1854 when some fifty whalers registered from this port. Two marine railways in operation now are the outgrowth of this maritime enterprise.

The building of motor boats and other small craft is successfully carried on by the M. J. Casey Co. Their boats have proved staunch and speedy and during the busy season many hands are employed.

Fairhaven has one newspaper, "The Fairhaven Star," issued every Saturday morning. It was established in 1879 by Charles D. Waldron, and has become an influential journal in the community.

One of the older industries is that of D. N. Kelley, dealer in dry, smoked and pickled fish. The business, which includes one of the town's best wharf sites, was established in 1874 by Ahira Kelley and his son, David N. Kelley, under the firm name of A. Kelley & Son. A fleet of schooners is maintained in the business and during the fishing season the wharf is a scene of great activity. The products are considered among the highest class on the market.

Among the recent additions to Fairhaven's industries is the Gold Bond Sterilized Powder Co., makers of the only sterilized antiseptic toilet powder in the world, for hospital use and general distribution. The company, which was formerly located in New York city, came to Fairhaven about a year ago. When its management was asked why the sterilized powder company located in Fairhaven, Mr. A. W. Guil-

ford, the president and general manager, replied: "Solely on account of the town's perfect sanitary conditions and shipping facilities. It is quite a 'spotless town', as the late Henry H. Rogers intended it should be."

After the decline of whaling, due to the perfecting of the method of refining petroleum, manufacturing gradually took its place. The first venture of this nature was a company known as the Acushnet Mill, organized for the manufacture of cotton bagging and coarse cotton cloth. The business proved unprofitable and was conducted for only a few years. The plant was afterwards used as a foundry and machine works, eventually coming into the possession of the Fairhaven Iron Foundry Co., who still continue the business in a location on the water front, the growth of the town necessitating its removal. The beautiful Tabitha Inn, with its spacious lawn, now occupies the site of the one-time noisy mill.

In 1864 the American Nail Machine Co. was established. By consolidating with other factories in other sections this plant became merged into the Atlas Tack Corporation, which subsequently became incorporated as the Atlas Tack Co. The present extensive buildings were erected and the business of all its branches conducted from this one plant.

Fairhaven can now justly boast of having the largest and best equipped tack mill in the world, furnishing employment to hundreds of hands in all departments. The manufacture of eyelets is one of the important branches and an addition has just been built to this department, practically doubling its capacity. This company now sends its products to every civilized country in the world. Thus from the modest beginning of forty years ago has this business grown to its present proportions, and is justly the hope and pride of the townspeople.

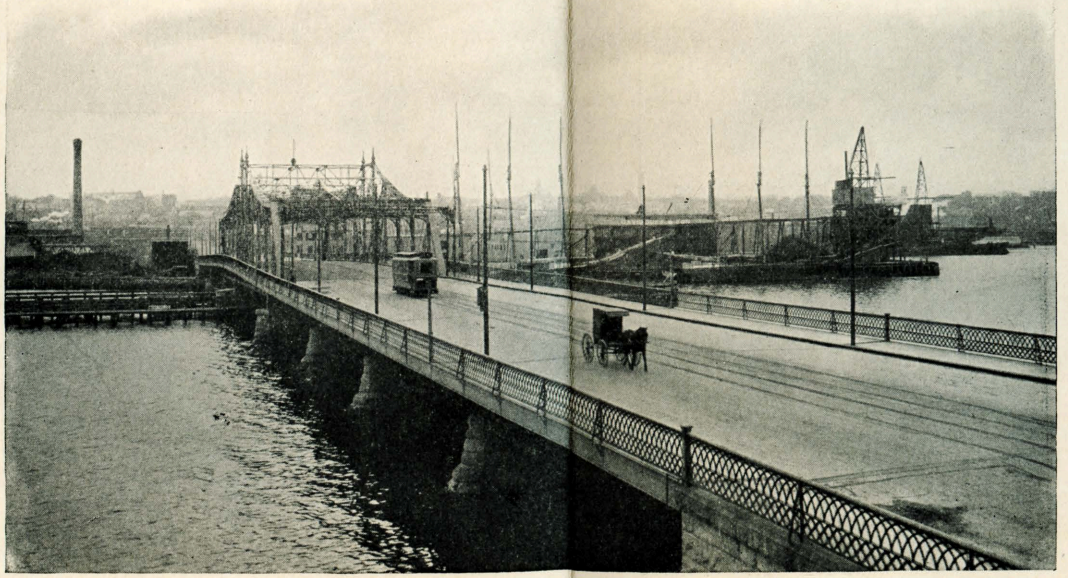
CENTRE M. E. CHURCH

Tabitha Inn, one of the best equipped and most attractive inns to be found in the country, was built by the late Henry H. Rogers to supply a long-felt want. It is handsomely furnished, has all the latest improvements, and is just small enough to give it a tone of home-life. The table is well supplied and daintily served. In fact, there is nothing lacking that tends to make a satisfying and up-to-date hostelry.

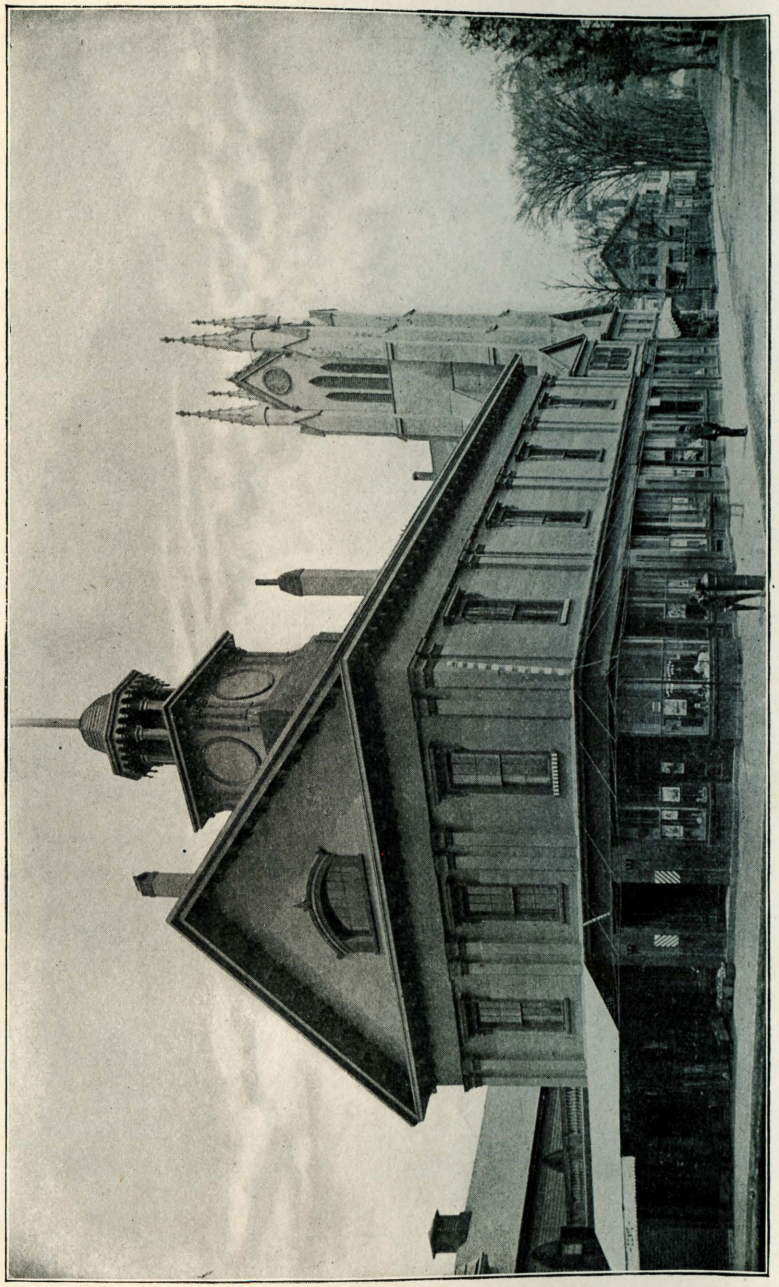
The religious societies of Fairhaven have always a welcome for the stranger or guest. All the societies are prosperous and flourishing, the buildings and grounds well looked after, and each has a history dating from the town's early days.

The First Congregational Church, a building of noble proportions, erected in 1844, is a fine type of Gothic architecture. The society grew out of the Second Church of Christ, organized in 1794. The original building, which stood on what was called Meeting House Hill, still exists in part as Phoenix Block, the hall being used for many years as a place for town meetings and other public gatherings, and the lower, or street floor, being divided into stores.

One block away is the Centre M. E. Church, a fine type of early New England architecture. On the opposite block stands the Unitarian Memorial Church, Parish House and Parsonage. These beautiful granite buildings of harmonious types of Gothic architecture, built by the late Henry H. Rogers, express in noble arches and exquisite carvings a son's devotion to a mother's memory. In other



THE NEW BEDFORD AND FAIRHAVEN BRIDGE
From the Yacht Club



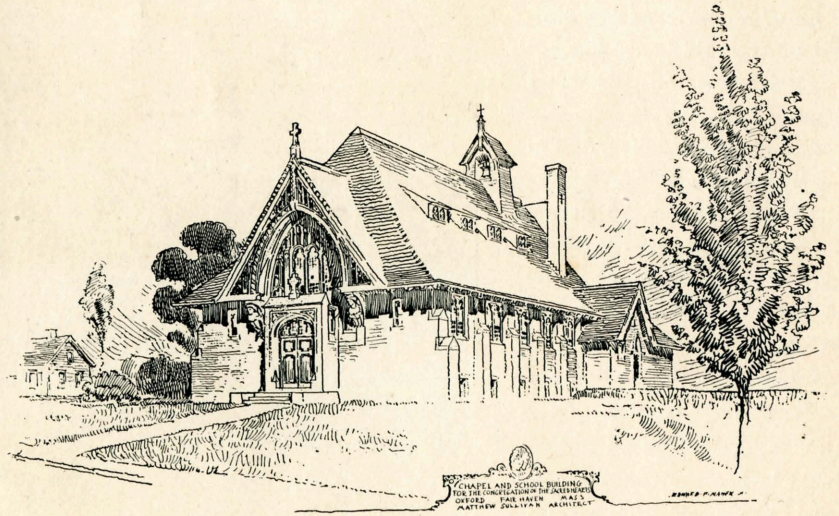
PHOENIX BLOCK AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

sections of the town are the Advent Christian Church, and the Mission of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal); also two Catholic churches, St. Joseph's and the Church of the Sacred Hearts.

The Fairhaven Improvement Association was organized in the fall of 1882. The object of the association of the members of the corporation "Shall be the improvement and ornamenting of the streets and public squares of the town of Fairhaven by planting and cultivating ornamental trees and generally to promote the beauty and welfare of the town".

Fairhaven's first school was established in 1798. It was known as the Fairhaven Academy and was conducted until 1836. This building, now cared for by the Improvement Association, still stands near the new High School building. The educational advantages offered by Fairhaven are superior in every way and the High School building is second to none in the country, costing $1,000,000. Here cooking, manual training, agriculture and various other important branches are taught. The school has an unusually fine gymnasium and stadium for athletic events. Other schools are the Rogers, the Washington Street School, the Oxford School and the Ninth Grade School. The pupils of the grammar grades have maintained school gardens with great success for several years. These and the home-garden movement, another successful venture, have been encouraged financially by the Improvement Association.

There are also two parochial schools, the work of which is conducted by the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts, and the Fathers of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts care for the spiritual welfare of the Catholic population. They


CHAPEL AND SCHOOL BUILDING
FOR THE CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS
OXFORD FAIRHAVEN MASS
MATTHEW SULLIVAN ARCHITECT

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEARTS

UNITARIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE

maintain, besides the two churches, the Fairhaven College, where higher branches of learning are taught.

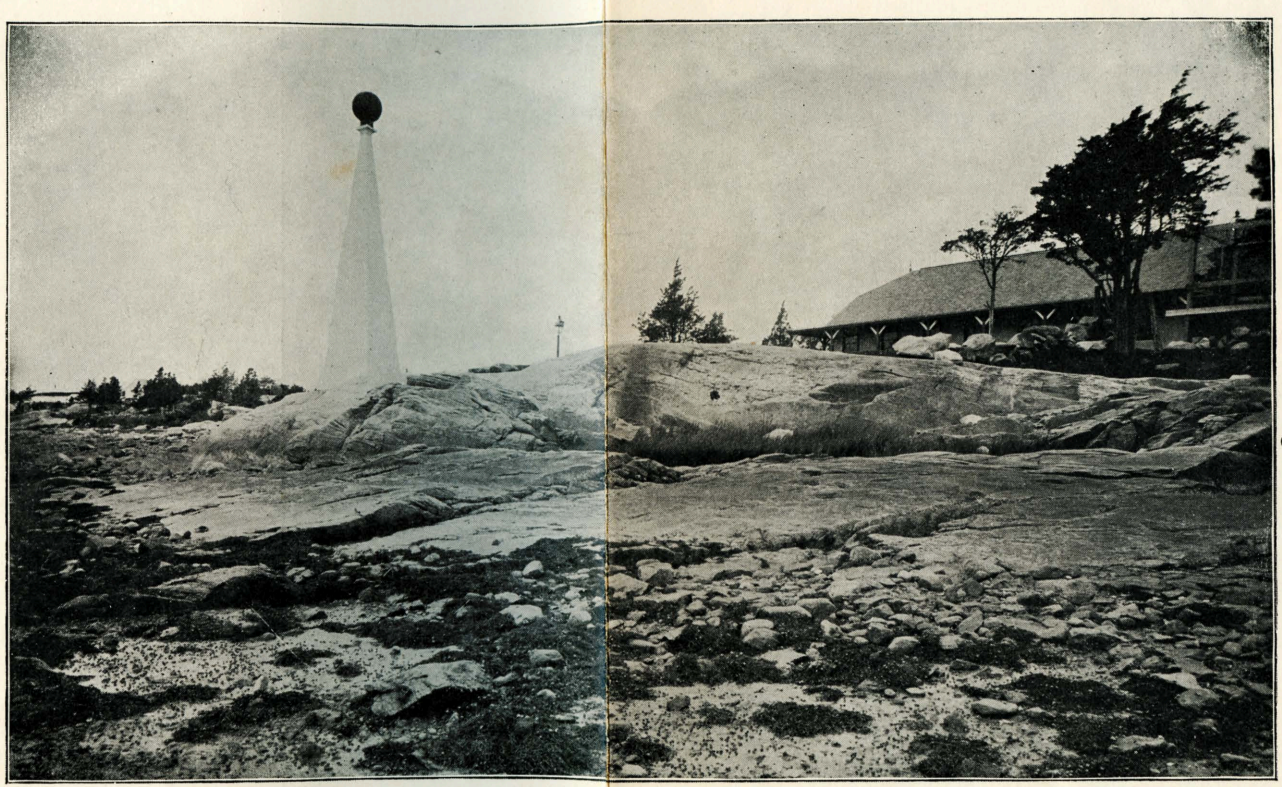
Included among the educational advantages of the town is The Millicent Library, a memorial from the son and daughters of Mr. Rogers to their sister, Millicent Gifford Rogers. It was erected in 1892 at an estimated cost of $100,000. It has 20,183 volumes, and the building is open twelve hours each day in the year, Sundays and holidays included. It has an endowment fund of $200,000 and the income from the Fairhaven Water Co.

Opposite the library is the Town Hall building, erected in 1894 by the late Abbie P., wife of Mr. Rogers. The estimated cost is $150,000. In this building are all the town offices, one portion being occupied by the post-office.

In 1795 the two villages of Oxford and Fairhaven were connected by a bridge across Herring river, which stream, with its source, the old mill-pond, has been transformed into a beauty spot. The pond was filled in at an estimated cost of $150,000 and laid out as a park, known as Cushman Park.

Fairhaven has two banks, the National Bank of Fairhaven and the Institution for Savings. The former was incorporated in 1831 and the latter in 1832. They have always been conservatively managed and are classed among the solid institutions of this section of the state.

Fairhaven has a number of successful social organizations. Among them are George H. Taber Lodge, F. & A. M., which is quartered in what is said to be the most beautifully furnished lodge-rooms in the state, located in the upper story of George H. Taber Masonic building, which it owns; Gifford Chapter, No. 105, O. E. S., and Sconticut Tribe of Red Men. All are in a most flourishing condition and contribute much to the social life of the town.



LEDGE ON SHORE AT BEACON VILLA

Address: PUBLICITY COMMITTEE, FAIRHAVEN.

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN MASS.
INCORPORATED FEB 22-1812.
TOWN HALL